



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Department of Civil Service and Registration

Board of Registration in Medicine

State Office Building, Government Center

100 Cambridge Street, Boston 02202

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 1969-1970

(In compliance with General Laws, Chapter 112, Section 4)

FUNCTION OR PURPOSE: See previous Annual Reports.

MEMBERSHIP: General Laws, Chapter 13, Section 10.)

The membership of the Board for the period of this report follows:

Joseph M. Baker, M.D.
Anthony O. Cardullo, M.D.
Vasilios G. Letsou, M.D.
Charles W. Sauter, 2d, D.O.
Bancroft C. Wheeler, M.D.
Charles A. Robinson, M.D., Chairman
David W. Wallwork, M.D., Secretary

MEETINGS OF THE BOARD: (General Laws, Chapter 13, Section 11.)

There were seven meetings in the period covered by this report.

ACTIVITIES OF THE BOARD:

Registration of physicians; temporary registration of physicians (approved May 20, 1970, effective August 18, 1970); limited registration of interns, residents, fellows, medical officers; examinations; discipline, complaints; records; registration of assistants in medicine; examination and registration of physical therapists; verification of registration for Registry of Motor Vehicles; approval of hospital affiliations for purposes of training. For details see previous annual reports.

LEGISLATION:

The Board sometimes initiates legislation, always reviews, and sometimes make recommendations in regard to, proposed new legislation pertaining to registration of physicians and the practice of medicine. On May 20, 1970, Chapter 325 of the Acts of 1970, initiated by the Board, Senate No. 223, was approved and becomes effective August 18, 1970, providing three categories of temporary registration of physicians to facilitate.

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registration of outstanding visiting physicians in teaching hospitals and to provide locum tenens physicians in specialties presenting manpower problems. No fee for such registration was provided by the Act, a deficiency necessitating correction in the 1971 Legislature.

Other legislation sponsored by the Board follows:

Senate No. 221, An Act clarifying the type of registration to be issued to certain physicians.

Senate No. 222, An Act abolishing the Approving Authority for Colleges and Medical Schools and permitting the endorsement registration of certain officers of the Armed Forces and of the Public Health Service and certain foreign medical graduates.

Senate No. 224, An Act granting to the Board of Registration in Medicine the use of expert advice and assistance in devising and conducting examinations.

Of the above legislative proposals, all were referred to the next annual session. Senate No. 919, submitted on behalf of the medical school deans, a modified version of the portion of Senate No. 222 referring to endorsement registration of certain officers of the Armed Forces and of the Public Health Service and certain foreign medical graduates, became Senate No. 1387 and enactment of this appeared likely.

STATISTICAL SUMMARIES

TABLE I

Total Number of Examinees	126
Passed	53
Failed	73
Foreign Medical School Graduates	119
Passed	51
Failed	68
Graduates of Unapproved Schools	5
Passed	0
Failed	5
Graduates of Approved American or Canadian Schools	2
Passed	2
Failed	0
Repeaters Taking Examination	38
Passed	7
Failed	31

TABLE II

Total Number of Physicians Registered	805
By examination	53
By Endorsement of National Board Credentials	577
By Endorsement of Registration of Other State licenses	175
Total number of limited registrations granted	2450
Total number of limited registrations as assistants in medicine granted	459
Total number of Physical Therapists registered during fiscal year 1969-1970	133
Total Number of lapsed Physical Therapy registrations revived	3
Total Number of Physical Therapy registrations renewed during fiscal year 1969-1970	1208

TABLE III

DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS

Revocations	0
Suspensions	0
Restorations	0
Hearings	2
Restoration denied	1
Restoration of registration, continued.	1
Appearance before the Board	4
No actions	2
Granted extension of period in which to obtain Certificate of Naturalization	1
Appeal from decision of the Board to refuse endorsement registration, Referred to Attorney General. Board upheld by Attorney General	1

TABLE IV

ACTION ON COMPLAINTS	12
Appearance before the Board	3
No action	2
Cited for Hearing	4
Referred to Massachusetts Medical Society	1
Referred to Massachusetts Osteopathic Society	1
Secretary's disposition accepted	1

SIGNIFICANT ACTIONS OF THE BOARD
FISCAL YEAR 1969-1970

During the year, as the result of problems arising during its deliberations, the Board has voted:

1. To seek legislation granting a graduate of a Canadian medical school with a license to practice in Canada the same consideration for endorsement registration as is granted in Canada to graduates of American medical schools.

2. To seek clarification by the Attorney General of Chapter 585, Acts of 1958, Section 23H, relative to the practice of physical therapy under supervision.

3. To seek an opinion from the Attorney General whether registration as an assistant in medicine can be granted to students in foreign medical schools under exchange programs.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROBLEM - LACK OF PERSONNEL

In the Annual Report for the fiscal year 1967-1968, a table was offered which presented in detail the steady increase in the work load of the personnel in the Board's office. Review of this increase ended with the expressed hope that the Board would have on a permanent basis at least the personnel previously authorized. The table mentioned, now brought up to date, is presented again with a similar table showing the constant increase in revenue reverted to the General Fund by the Board's activities. The work load has continued to mount. No additional personnel have been authorized and not even the authorized personnel have been provided on a permanent basis. Because of the enormous detail involved, temporary personnel are of markedly limited value and even may be an additional burden to the full time personnel for considerable periods. Long accumulated terminal leave, long pregnancy leave, excessive vacation and sick leave and transfer of a trained employee to head the Chiropractic Board are some of the factors which have plagued the office over the years. Transfers are difficult to

arrange because of the known heavy work load. Repeated requests to the Director of Registration, with appeals to the Commissioner of Administration, for permanent junior and senior clerk typists repeatedly elicit the response that such personnel are simply not available through Civil Service channels. At one time in the fall of 1969, for more than a month, only the principal clerk was present in the office and on some days not even she was available. A request of the Ways and Means Committee for an Executive Secretary, supported by a survey by the Office of the Commissioner on Administration, fell on deaf ears. A proposed request for a head clerk can scarcely be expected to fare any better.

Temporary registration (a new type of registration) and simplified endorsement registration of foreign medical school graduates as a result of new legislation will further aggravate the problem.

All this instability has resulted in justifiable critical reports by the Auditor's Office, complaints from physicians and hospitals, a severe depression in the one permanent employee in the office and frustration on the part of the Secretary of the Board. What more or what else can be done!

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR LEGISLATIVE ACTION

1. An Act abolishing the Approving Authority for Colleges and Medical Schools and permitting the Endorsement Registration of Certain Officers of the Armed Forces and the Public Health Service and Certain Foreign Medical Graduates, and amending Chapter 540 of the Acts of 1970.

This bill will accomplish several purposes; (a) It will remove from the statutes all reference to the Approving Authority for Colleges and Medical Schools which long ago, by changes in the statutes, was deprived of any function. Remaining references to this Authority, however, have been administrative stumbling blocks in the registration of foreign medical school graduates. (b) It removes the requirement of physics, chemistry and biology on a college level from the qualifications required of candidates. Various rulings by the Attorney General have made this requirement meaningless by permitting such courses to be taken even after the medical degree has been granted. United States colleges now frequently give credit for secondary school courses in such subjects. Some American medical school do not now specifically require all three. (c) It will provide endorsement registration to foreign medical school graduates as intended by Chapter 540 of the Acts of 1970 without challenges permitted by the language of the Act. For example, if the Board required a Declaration of Intention or the specific educational requirements demanded of foreign graduates registered by examination, its decision could be considered by the Courts to be "arbitrary and capricious in view of the words "notwithstanding other provisions of this chapter." The Board's interpretation of "active practice" as a fully licensed practitioner already has been challenged and yet the Board is sure this was intended by the legislature, just as a Declaration of Intention was intended to be a prerequisite to registration. The stumbling block of

previous failure in an examination by an obviously well qualified candidate has been removed by the proposed act just as it was by Chapter 540, Acts of 1970.

2. An Act clarifying the type of registration to be issued to certain physicians.

The enactment of Chapter 325, Acts of 1970 makes this editorial change necessary. Chapter 234 of the Acts of 1968 obviously refers to limited registration but mentions "temporary license" which Chapter 235, Acts of 1970 defines.

3. An Act granting to the Board of Registration in Medicine the use of Expert Advice and Assistance in Devising and Conducting Examinations.

The bill authorizes the Massachusetts Board of Registration in Medicine to use such an examination as the Flex examination (the most sophisticated examination available for licensing physicians) and removes from the statutes the mention of specific subjects in which a candidate must be examined. This is in line with curricular changes in American medical schools in their attempts to adopt medical school training to the needs of the modern day practice of medicine.

4. An Act providing necessary Traveling Expenses of a Member of the Board of Registration in Medicine for attendance at the Annual Meeting of the Federated State Boards.

For some years, this expenditure was permitted until the Comptroller noted that the specific language, Section 11, Chapter 112, of the General Laws permitted only expenses incidental to meetings of the Board. Attendance at the Annual meeting of the Federated Boards is necessary if the Board is to be familiar with what other state boards are doing and planning and this has become especially urgent with the adoption of the Flex examination devised and conducted by the Federated State Boards.

5. An Act providing for an increase in the fees for examination and re-examination for registration as a physical therapist.

The requested changes in 23B and 23E, Chapter 585, Acts of 1958, are necessitated by the fact that the price of the examination by the Professional Examination Service has increased from \$12.50 to \$25.00 effective July 1, 1970.

6. An Act to provide for a fee for the issuance of a temporary registration.

Chapter 325 of the Acts of 1970 made no provision for a fee for the issuance of a temporary registration.

Respectfully submitted,

DAVID W. WALLWORK, M.D.
Secretary

DW:HCP

1943-1970 (27 years)

18

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>INCOME</u>	<u>EXPENDITURES</u>	<u>INCOME REVERTED TO GENERAL FUND</u>
1952	\$16,571.25	\$17,258.87	\$ -687.62
1953	\$16,851.00	\$17,451.88	\$ -600.88
1954	\$19,886.55	\$18,084.59	\$ 1,801.96
1955	\$29,898.25	\$20,889.84	\$ 9,008.41
1956	\$29,176.00	\$23,670.06	\$ 5,505.94
1957	\$30,330.00	\$24,824.11	\$ 5,505.84
1958	\$35,070.00	\$24,430.99	\$10,639.01
1959	\$36,082.25	\$24,519.21	\$10,563.04
1960	\$48,725.00	\$25,738.40	\$22,986.60
1961	\$46,318.00	\$27,133.86	\$19,184.14
1962	\$50,208.10	\$29,187.10	\$21,021.00
1963	\$50,636.33	\$29,965.68	\$20,670.65
1964	\$55,853.10	\$29,338.75	\$26,514.35
1965	\$64,298.00	\$32,518.54	\$31,779.46
1966	\$70,581.00	\$37,751.37	\$32,829.63
1967	\$71,816.10	\$39,250.07	\$32,566.03
1968	\$78,629.46	\$38,265.46	\$30,364.00
1969	\$78,473.11	\$36,146.61	\$42,326.50